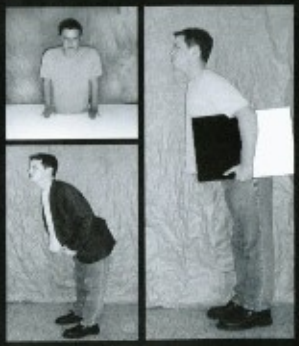
"That's sick!" When you hear the first two people you show your trick to independently say the same thing, you know you're on to something.

I've probably invented over two-dozen ways to cut yourself in half over the past 10 years. Yeah, I know it's a nutty obsession. But I've always wanted a way to respond when some asks if I can cut someone in half.

Now I have an answer, "Yeah, me."



These are actual photographs of the different ways you can use the **Pocket Sawing-in-Half**

andrew mayne's

POCKET SAWING-IN-HALF

CUT YOURSELF IN HALF! ANYWHERE AT ANYTIME! SURROUNDED BY SPECTATORS!

6 DIFFERENT ROUTINES INCLUDING TWO THAT CAN BE PERFORMED SURROUNDED

OVER 35 PHOTOGRAPHS

THE COMPLETE MANUSCRIPT WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO BUILD THE GIMMICK IN UNDER 5 MINUTES

Special thanks to Matt Barber for the photographs. Thank you to Jeff Kostick and Jeff Rutenberg for the valuable suggestions.

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"That's sick!" When you hear the first two people you show your trick to independently say the same thing, you know you're on to something.

I've probably invented over two-dozen ways to cut yourself in half over the past 10 years. Yeah, I know it's a nutty obsession. But I've always wanted a way to respond when some asks if I can cut someone in half. Now I have an answer, "Yeah, me."

The Pocket Sawing-in-Half is a simple *concept*. It's so simple you can make the gimmick in a minute (and it'll cost you $.04). Don't let its simple nature fool you. When performed under the right conditions - audience straight in front of you (unless otherwise noted) - it's a fun visual effect that make them do a double-take and maybe tell you that *you're* sick.

The Pocket Sawing is best done as a "throwaway" effect without too much fanfare. At some point during your act, just do it. Then move on. Less is more. It plays with their heads. Playing with their heads is a good thing. The gimmick is so easy to prepare, you'll probably want to make several and put them in your shirts (slightly large, stretchy shirts).

I've included 6 ways to use the effect. I'm sure there are millions more. (In fact, if you come up with one, send a picture to me at andrew@maynestream.com. I'll put it into later versions of this manuscript.) I suggest you practice all the methods here as well as work on your flexibility. The three factors that make or break this illusion are **1. The angle and position of your audience. 2. Your degree of flexibility. 3. Your timing.**

Make the gimmick. Go stand in front of a mirror or video camera and start playing!

THE BASIC PERFORMANCE

You show the audience a piece of cardboard.

You turn side ways and hold the board under your arm.

The top half of your body moves forward - separated from your bottom half.

(Side view)

Pull the cardboard away and everything is normal.

Except for that scar...

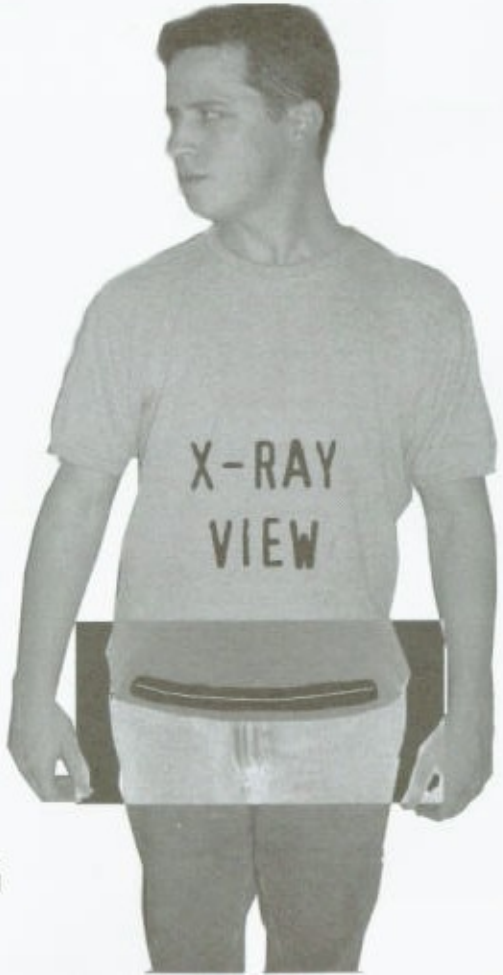
THE (BASIC) GIMMICK

Take an 11 inch piece of coat hanger wire and stick it to a 12 inch piece of tape.

Attach the gimmick to the underside of your shirt (for best results, use a cotton-ribbed shirt a size larger than normal.)

Bend the gimmick so it comfortably wraps around your stomach.

The key to the illusion is being able to lean forward while keeping your shoulders and head straight. The further you can lean forward and do this, the more convincing the illusion.



SURROUNDED SAWING

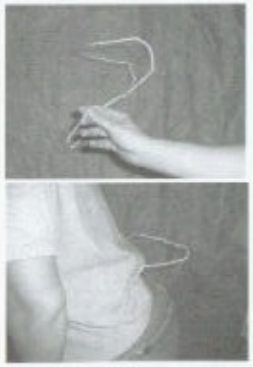
Begin by facing the audience.

Place your right hand to your back (push in the second gimmick) and put your left hand to your stomach.

Lean forward (keep your chest and head upright) and push your backside out.

To finish, lean back and push the secondary gimmick in (bending it flush with your body).

THE SECONDARY GIMMICK



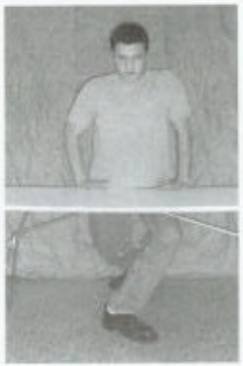
This is the gimmick you will use for this version of the effect. (Yeah, it's another coat hanger)

The gimmick is tucked into your back waist (it creates the illusion of being cut off at the waist). The part that sticks out is kept in place by your belt until you perform. After you perform the effect, you bend the gimmick against your body.

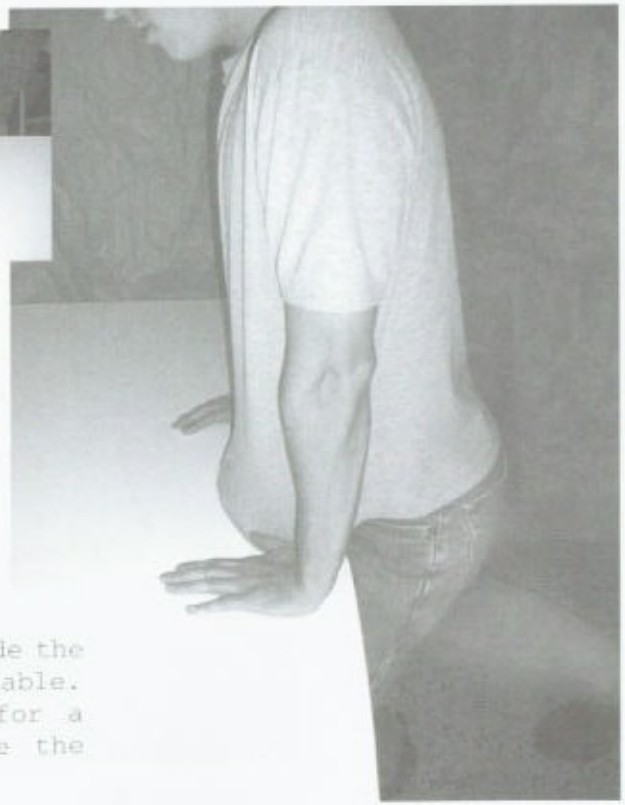
PENETRATING A TABLE

Slowly approach the table.

Lean forward and place your palms on the table with your thumbs over the edge of the gimmick.



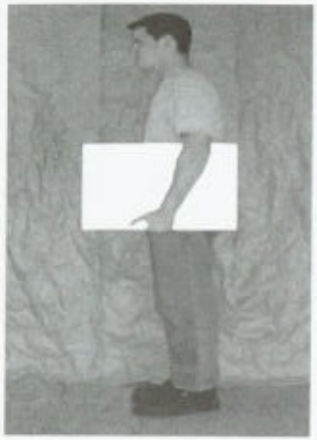
(Overhead view)



Lean forward and slide the gimmick across the table. Hold the position for a moment then reverse the procedure.

THE BASIC METHOD

Show your audience your piece of cardboard.



Turn to the side with the cardboard at your waist.

Lean forward while using your free hand to move your shirt forward.

(Back view)

After the effect sets in (just a few moments), return your body back to normal.

THE JACKET (SIMPLIFIED)

Step 1. Put on a jacket.

This trick works only if people are standing right in front of you.

Step 2. Hold the gimmick against the jacket sides while stepping back with your left foot (Lean over your right foot).

This is the angle you don't want your audience to see!

SLICER

Explain to your audience about the sharp edge on your piece of cardboard.

Hold the cardboard to your waist.

Slide the gimmick forward with your thumbs as you lean forward.

Reverse to finish the illusion.

(Overhead view)

THE BOX

Cut the top and bottom off a cardboard box. Using a dinner plate as a template, cut out a hole in the front. Attach a piece of coat hanger as a hook at the front of the box

Show the audience the box. Unfold it then step into it. Hook the front of your shirt over the wire hook.

Lean forward as you slide the box forward.

Slide the box back and let it fall to the ground.

PERFORMANCE TIPS

9 things to remember:

1. Always know where your audience is located
2. Be aware of your sight lines
3. Less is more
4. Work on your flexibility every day
5. Don't be afraid to say, "No I can't do it again"
6. Listen to your friend's criticisms
7. Use a video camera to practice
8. Practice a lot
9. Play with the gimmick, develop your own ideas

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